

David Ray Tant v. William Frick, Michael Stobbe, David Tatarsky, and John Doe, individually, or alternatively in their capacities as agents of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, the South Carolina Department of Pardon, Probation and Parole, and the Fairfield County Solicitor's Office, and therefore, the South Carolina Department of Corrections, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, the South Carolina Department of Pardon, Probation and Parole, and the Fairfield County Solicitor's Office

Civil Action Number: 3:12-cv-03020-JFA-PJG
Claim Number: 84865
Our File Number: 103.8983

EXHIBIT A

Notice of Motion and Motion for Summary Judgment on Behalf of Defendants William Frick, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, and Fairfield County Solicitor's Office

(Excerpts from Transcript of Plea and Sentencing Hearing)

October 15, 2013

10:00 a.m. 09-02-2008

2/04

1

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
2004-GS-10-5829 and 5830
2004-GS-10-3473, 3474,
3475, 3476, 3477, 3478,
3479, 3480, 3481, 3482,
3483, 3484, 3485, 3486,
3487, 3488, 3489, 3490,
3491, 3492, 3493, 3494,
3495, 3496, 3497, 3498,
3499, 3500, 3501, 3502,
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) 3503, 3504, 3505, 3506,
) 3507, 3508, 3509, 3510,
) 3511, 3512, 3513

vs.
)
)
DAVID RAY TANT,
)
Defendant.)

November 15-22, 2004

B E F O R E:

HONORABLE WYATT T. SAUNDERS

A P P E A R A N C E S:

JENNIFER D. EVANS, Esquire
WILLIAM P. FRICK, JR., Esquire
Attorneys for the State

DALE T. COBB, JR., Esquire
Attorney for the Defendant

Henry P. Young
Court Reporter

ROA-122

10:47:16 a.m. 09-02-2008

3 / 64

2

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (Excerpts)

3 (Reconvened at 1:00 o'clock p.m., November
4 22, 2004).5 THE COURT: We'll coming into session,
6 please, in the matter of State of South Carolina
7 versus David Ray Tant, indictment 2004-GS-10-5829
8 and others.

9 Mr. Frick.

10 MR. FRICK: Would you like me to call the
11 indictments, Your Honor?12 THE COURT: Well, place on the record what is
13 occurring.14 MR. FRICK: Your Honor, while we were taking
15 a break it was indicated that, through Mr. Cobb,
16 that Mr. Tant wished to plead guilty to the charges
17 pending against him, with the only negotiation, so
18 to speak, Your Honor, that the indictment for
19 assault and battery with intent to kill on
20 04-GS-10-5829, that he would be allowed to plead to
21 the lesser included of assault and battery of a
22 high and aggravated nature. All other charges he
23 would plead to and Your Honor would make the
24 determination as to sentence.

25 THE COURT: All right, thank you, Mr. Frick.

10:47:25 a.m. 09-02-2008

4/64

3

1 Mr. Cobb, is that a correct statement?

2 MR. COBB: That is correct, Your Honor, and
3 Mr. Tant has signed the sentencing sheets on all of
4 those indictments.

5 THE COURT: All right. Now, the Court is
6 aware that Mr. Tant is not comfortable standing, at
7 least that was what the Court last knew, it was not
8 comfortable for you to stand, so does anybody
9 object to Mr. Tant just remaining seated and
10 comfortable?

11 MR. FRICK: Absolutely no objection, Your
12 Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 Mr. Frick, will you read through through the
15 indictments so that the record will become clear
16 and that both Mr. Cobb and Mr. Tant can understand
17 what he's pleading guilty to?

18 MR. FRICK: Yes, sir, and what I will do to
19 ensure that the Court is absolutely clear and the
20 record is clear, I'm going to read the indictment
21 number along with the corresponding intake number
22 for each dog to ensure that we have the dog
23 identified. I'm going to pass forward what was
24 introduced into the court yesterday with the
25 picture of the dog, pictures of the dogs with the

10:47:35 a.m. 09-02-2008

5/64

4

1 corresponding intake number that is reflected on
2 the amended indictment.

3 Mr. Cobb has a copy of this sheet and I'm
4 going to pass it forward so the Court will also
5 have a copy so we can follow along. It is in the
6 order of the indictment, so we will go from the
7 lowest number of the indictments to the highest
8 numbered indictment concerning the dogs.

9 THE COURT: All right, proceed.

10 MR. FRICK: Thank you, Your Honor. First I
11 will start with the two other indictments that are
12 not included with the animal fighting indictment.
13 Those would be on 2004-GS-10-5829, charging Mr.
14 Tant with assault and battery with intent to kill
15 on Mr. Steven Baker.

16 I'm just making sure my victim is present
17 with us in court.

18 Also on 04-5830, possession of a dangerous
19 animal.

20 And now, Your Honor, I'll proceed with the
21 animal fighting indictments if that is okay?

22 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

23 MR. FRICK: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 Your Honor the first indictment is indictment
25 04-GS-10-3473. The dog is intake number 25817,

10:47:45 a.m. 09-02-2008

6/64.

5

1 State's Exhibit 69 which I will pass forward to
2 you.

3 And Your Honor, at this time -- yes, sir?

4 THE COURT: If it is acceptable to the State
5 and to the defense, if the defendant is satisfied
6 that each of the intake numbers is reflected on
7 these photographs --

8 MR. COBB: Yes, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: -- it won't be necessary for the
10 photographs to be handed up. The Court saw the
11 photographs on yesterday when they were introduced
12 through the witness and it's not necessary to be
13 handing up each photograph.

14 Madam Clerk, hand this back. Miss Evans,
15 will you take it back, please?

16 Now, is that acceptable, Mr. Cobb? The Court
17 has already looked at them.

18 MR. COBB: Yes, sir.

19 THE COURT: But you do need to --

20 MR. FRICK: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: When you say this, you are
22 assuring Mr. Cobb that those are the photographs
23 that correspond to the indictment and he has seen
24 them and you have displayed them to him, correct?

25 MR. FRICK: Yes, sir.

10:49:20 A.M. 09-02-2008

16/64
15

1 THE COURT: If you are convicted as a result
2 of these proceedings of any one or all of these
3 charges you have a right to appeal but that has to
4 be done in writing within ten days.

5 Do you understand your right to appeal?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Tant.

8 The next step in the proceedings is a
9 statement or presentation by the prosecution of
10 what the evidence would reveal were we to continue
11 with the trial of the case throughout it and to its
12 final adjudication. Please pay attention because
13 the Court will ask you if you believe, after having
14 heard what statement is made, that this evidence
15 would be admitted, that it would be convincing and
16 that you would be convicted. That you have to make
17 your own mind up about.

18 Have you explained that to him, Mr. Cobb?

19 MR. COBB: I have, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. So, the next
21 step, sir, is to turn to the State and ask them to
22 say what they would prove to this jury if this
23 trial was to continue and then you will be asked if
24 you either did these things or feel that this could
25 be proven.

7344113

10:49:36 a.m. 09-02-2008

17/64
16

1 Do you understand that?

2 THE DEFENDANT: I'm pretty sure I do, yes,
3 sir.

4 THE COURT: All right. Well, let's state it
5 again. Mr. Frick, are you making the statement?

6 MR. FRICK: Sir?

7 THE COURT: Will you make the statement?

8 MR. FRICK: Yes, sir, I will.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Frick is going to say here in
10 front of you and on the record what he is prepared
11 or he thinks he's prepared to prove against you to
12 this jury and then after he says what he says the
13 Court will ask if you did what he says you did or
14 you feel that he could prove what he says he can
15 prove.

16 Clear?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: All right, thank you, Mr. Tant.

19 Solicitor, Mr. Frick, the record is over to
20 you.

21 MR. FRICK: Thank you very much, Your Honor.

22 As Your Honor is well aware, this case has
23 been before us for the last weak in trial. I will
24 lay out the basic facts of the case for the record
25 for this plea.

7344113

10:49:45 a.m. 09-02-2008

18 / 64

17

1 This event occurred on or about April 7th of
2 2004 when the Charleston County Sheriff's
3 Department was called out to a shooting incident at
4 5817 County Line Road in the Ravenel area of
5 Charleston County in Charleston, South Carolina.
6 When they arrived on the scene they determined that
7 Mr. Steven Baker who was the victim of a shooting
8 was at the scene and had been shot with some
9 shotgun, he was hit with pellets, Your Honor, and
10 it wasn't clear whether that, at the time whether
11 that had occurred on the property or off the
12 property.

13 Further investigation concluded that he was
14 shot, basically, Your Honor, from pellets hitting
15 from his ankle up to his stomach, Your Honor, all
16 in between, including, Your Honor, his private
17 areas. He sustained severe injuries as a result of
18 that, was hospitalized and subsequently, because of
19 the lead, suffered severe damage and it is my
20 understanding, Your Honor, almost died from that
21 shooting.

22 When law enforcement initially arrived, as I
23 said, they could not determine how the shooting
24 occurred. The investigation went on and it was
25 determined from the bomb squad and ATF who came out

7344113

10:49:56 a.m. 09-02-2008

19 /64

18

1 to the scene that there was a device placed on the
2 land that was activated by a trip wire, Your Honor.

3 Mr. Baker was there for the purposes of
4 surveying. Now, there is a lot of intimation and
5 rumor as to what Mr. Baker was doing there. The
6 State had evidence to prove Mr. Baker was there for
7 the sole purposes of his job that day, Your Honor.

8 He was called, he showed up for work, he was put on
9 a work crew he didn't normally work with, his boss
10 said, "You're going with these people to this
11 property today." They had no idea he was going to
12 be there. He was there for the purpose of working,
13 was working and placed his, the stake used in
14 surveying into the ground when this thread that
15 acted as a trip wire was tripped, it fired the
16 device, it shot Mr. Baker in the legs, up to his
17 stomach.

18 Law enforcement then determined that based on
19 where the trip wire led to, the device was some
20 sixty something feet away, so if Mr. Baker had been
21 any closer it's devastating to think what could
22 have occurred in that, Your Honor, but we're
23 dealing solely with the injury that did occur, he
24 was shot from this distance away.

25 Law enforcement arrived, identified that Mr.

734 4113

10:50:07 a.m. 09-02-2008

20/64

19

1 Tant was the property owner and he was present.
2 Through the investigation they also determined that
3 there were several pit bulls --

4 THE COURT: Wait just a minute. Turn to Mr.
5 Tant. This is sort of a separate and different
6 charge, so, Mr. Tant, did you arrange the device so
7 that it would go off if someone tripped a wire or
8 pulled the thread? Did you do that?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Continue.

11 MR. FRICK: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 Also in relation to where Mr. Baker was
13 standing were runs with kennels with pit bulls in
14 them and then there were also scattered about the
15 property areas in which pit bulls were chained.
16 Mr. Baker was standing close to where the kennels
17 was in close proximity to where he was standing,
18 working, and that is where the device was.

19 When law enforcement arrived, pursuant to
20 someone being taken into custody, Animal Control
21 began processing and seizing all animals on the
22 property, which is standard procedure under our
23 law, Your Honor. The deputy in charge of that,
24 Deputy Valerie White, had recently been through
25 some training regarding animal fighting. At that

7344113

10:50:18 a.m. 09-02-2008

21/64
20

1 training she had been told that Mr. Tant was
2 involved with animal fighting, to be aware of Mr.
3 Tant. This was the information she received at the
4 training.

5 Additionally, the dogs that she saw had
6 injuries, scars and other injuries that were
7 consistent with fighting and information she
8 received in her training.

9 As the search continued, once law enforcement
10 procured a search warrant they went through other
11 outbuildings on the property searching for anything
12 relating to the device that was found, because they
13 were still clearing a crime scene and anything
14 involving the animal fighting that had now come up,
15 that the charges had now come about.

16 In the property they found the items, Your
17 Honor, seized before him that the State has
18 introduced into evidence, the treadmills, the
19 cattle prods, the chains, much paperwork, the
20 breaking sticks, Your Honor. Once they determined
21 that Mr. Tant was a suspect he was detained, his
22 identity was ascertained fully, they realized that
23 he did not live at that property but lived at
24 another property, that property being X393 Dorsey
25 X Avenue in North Charleston. They obtained a search

7344113

10:50:29 a.m. 09-02-2008

22 / 64

21

1 warrant for that for any instrumentalities of
2 animal fighting and for the incident involving the
3 shooting of Mr. Baker.

4 At that house they found more
5 instrumentalities and much more paperwork detailing
6 Mr. Tant's involvement in the animal fighting world
7 for years and years and years, Your Honor, dating
8 back into the eighties. This paperwork is the
9 paperwork that the State introduced yesterday, or
10 Saturday, into the trial. Also the pictures that
11 Your Honor has seen of the dogs, particularly
12 Tant's Yellow, -which was a grand champion, and a
13 grand champion, Your Honor, our expert and our CI
14 would testify that a grand champion is a dog that
15 has won five dogfights, Your Honor. It's a
16 specific term for this heinous, for lack of a
17 better term, sport.

18 Yellow was the key dog to Mr. Tant's line,
19 through our investigation, through testimony we
20 would have received, and the dogs that were on the
21 property related to this dog Yellow that began in
22 earnest Mr. Tant's line, blood line that was so
23 important in this terrible animal fighting
24 community, Your Honor. All of this was seized on
25 his property pursuant to search warrant and legal

7344113

10:50:40 a.m. 09-02-2008

23 /64

22

1 search.

2 That would be the basic facts of the case,
3 Your Honor. I will now go into what further
4 testimony the State would introduce as the trial
5 continued.

6 First of all we have a vet, Dr. Robert
7 Carlson, who once the dogs were processed he looked
8 at each dog and determined on his examination that
9 there were dogs, many dogs that exhibited injuries
10 consistent with animal fighting. Now, he would
11 testify that not necessarily all the dogs looked as
12 if they had been recently fought or had been
13 fought, but that many dogs had injuries consistent
14 with animal fighting. Furthermore, there were
15 other dogs that had puncture wounds or wounds that
16 were consistent with a dog bite.

17 I'm not going so far as to say he could say
18 that these dogs had been fought but there was
19 injuries consistent with a dog bite. They were not
20 injuries consistent with, say, hunting, if the dog
21 were hit by a boar, which is a use of pit bulls,
22 it's common to use them in boar fighting and hog
23 catch competitions, Your Honor, which also would be
24 an illegal activity. But these dogs did not have
25 any injuries that would indicate that a boar's tusk

1 to Charleston County for the care and upkeep of
2 these animals, and we will get those exact figures
3 to you, Your Honor, but we would just ask that you
4 order that.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. Is there anything
6 further from any quarter, please?

7 MS. EVANS: Nothing from the State, Your
8 Honor.

9 MR. COBB: Nothing from the defendant, Your
10 Honor, thank you.

11 THE COURT: Thank you both. In
12 2004-GS-10-5829 David Ray Tant has been convicted
13 of assault and battery of a high and aggravated
14 nature, for which he is confined to the State
15 Department of Corrections for a term of ten years.
16 Complete medical examination and a report to be
17 filed by the Department of Corrections, all medical
18 attention and medications to be administered. In
19 2004-3473 Mr. Tant has been convicted of animal
20 fighting, for which he is confined to the State
21 Department of Corrections for five years
22 consecutive to the aforementioned 2004-5829.

23 2004-3474, he's been convicted of animal
24 fighting, for which he is confined to the State
25 Department of Corrections for a term of five years

10:57:14 a.m. 09-02-2008

59 /64

58

1 consecutive to 2004-5829.

2 2004-3475, Mr. Tant is convicted of animal
3 fighting, for which he is confined to the State
4 Department of Corrections for a term of five years
5 consecutive to 2004-5829.

6 2004-3476, he has been convicted of animal
7 fighting, for which he is confined to the State
8 Department of Corrections for a term of five years
9 consecutive to 2004-5829.

10 2004-3477, Mr. Tant has been convicted of
11 animal fighting, for which he is confined to the
12 State Department of Corrections for a term of five
13 years consecutive to 2004-GS-10-5829, with the
14 stipulation of the Court that this sentence shall
15 be null and void upon payment of restitution to be
16 determined at a hearing or an agreement as to that
17 amount. Now, the hearing to be held within a
18 reasonable time if there is no agreement.

19 In 2004-3478 Mr. Tant is confined to the
20 State Department of Corrections for a term of five
21 years consecutive to 2004-5829, which sentence will
22 be null and void upon payment of restitution to be
23 determined at a hearing or an agreement as to the
24 amount of restitution.

25 Now, all other sentences remaining, in

10:57:25 a.m. 09-02-2008

60 /64

59

1 2004-5830, he has been convicted of possession of a
2 dangerous animal, for which he is confined to the
3 Department of Corrections for a term of three
4 years, which is suspended.

5 All other indictments, 2004-3479 through and
6 including 2004-3513, he has been convicted of
7 animal fighting, for which he's confined to the
8 State Department of Corrections for five years, all
9 of which are suspended.

10 Are there any questions or comments? Take
11 your time.

12 MS. EVANS: Your Honor, yes, I do have, if
13 you could read exactly the first part of what you
14 said the ABHAN and the remaining one, two, three,
15 four, five animal fighting charges were and that
16 sentence was.

17 THE COURT: In 2004-5829 Mr. Tant is
18 convicted of assault and battery of a high and
19 aggravated nature, for which he is confined to the
20 State Department of Corrections for ten years.
21 Special conditions are that he is to receive
22 complete medical examination and report on his
23 medical conditions to be filed by the Department of
24 Corrections. All medical attention and medications
25 are to be administered.

10:37:35 a.m. 09-02-2008

61 /64

60

1 In 2004-3473, 2004-3474, 2004-3475,
2 2004-3476, those additional four indictments for
3 which he has been convicted of animal fighting, are
4 consecutive to each other and consecutive to
5 2004-5829.

6 Is that clear?

7 MS. EVANS: Okay, and then the next part?

8 THE COURT: 2004-3477, 2004-3478, he has been
9 convicted of animal fighting in both, for which he
10 is confined to the State Department of Corrections
11 in both for a term of five years consecutive to
12 2004-5829 as to both. However, the sentence in
13 these two sentences shall be null and void upon
14 payment of restitution which is to be determined at
15 a hearing or by agreement.

16 Questions or comments?

17 MS. EVANS: The State understands. Thank
18 you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: The Court's understanding is that
20 we do not have a figure, and to make those
21 sentences null and void they shall be upon
22 satisfaction of the amount of restitution to be
23 paid to and for Mr. Baker, either to him or for him
24 as the case may be, and to or for the care, to and
25 for some individual for the care of these animals.

10:57:46 a.m. 09-02-2008 62 /64

61

1 MS. EVANS: Yes, sir.

2 THE COURT: That figure, you just said, Miss
3 Evans, is not now known and you felt it would be
4 obtained soon.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes, we will get those to the
6 defense within a week.

7 THE COURT: And if you would pass that on,
8 then, to Mr. Cobb, if there is an agreement as to
9 the amount and if it is paid; then these sentences
10 are not effective sentences, they are to become
11 null and void. It is written on the face of the
12 sentence sheet that they are null and void on
13 payment of that restitution.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes, sir, those two, the last two
15 dog fighting ones will become null and void.

16 THE COURT: 3477 and 3478.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes, sir, thank you.

18 THE COURT: And the balance of them, as
19 aforesaid, are all, the sentences in each, five
20 years in each, the dog fighting and animal
21 fighting, is suspended, as is the three years for
22 possession of a dangerous animal, it is suspended
23 as well.

24 Are there questions or comments?

25 MR. COBB: Is Your Honor going to retain